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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/898,335	07/03/2001	Hirofumi Ishii	5077-000057	2430

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EXAMINER

DESIRE, GREGORY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

✓

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/898,335

Applicant(s)

ISHII ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory M. Desire

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kirsten (6,011,901).

Regarding claim 1 Kirsten discloses,

A camera section (which reads on fig. 4, block 70, 72, 104 and 74) including multiple camera (note video selector 70, selects from multiple cameras 1-8) and image data cut down means (which reads on block 74 image compressor), the image data cut down means reducing the amount of original image data representing camera image captured by multiple cameras (note col. 12 lines 64-65, image compressor reduces image data) the camera section outputting the reduced image data (image compressor outputs reduced image data);

A transmission path (which reads on processor bus 112) for transmitting the reduced image data that has been output from the camera section (note col. 9 lines 39-40 and 46 processor bus transmit output of image compressor); and

An image processing section, which receives the reduced image data through the transmission path (note col. 9 lines 50-53) and produces a synthesized image from the reduced image data (note col. 12 lines 43-51);

Wherein the camera section or the image processing section includes cut down mode selecting means for selecting a cut down mode (note fig. 4 block 70 and col. 3 line 66-col. 4 line 12), video selector is important in selecting compression rates), in which the original image data for use in image synthesis has its amount cut down (compressor 74, cut down original image data), for the image data cut down means in accordance with a correspondence between the synthesized and camera images.

Regarding claim 2 Kirsten discloses,

Wherein the image processing section selectively produces any multiple types of synthesized images and changes the types of the synthesized images to be produced (note fig. 13, 14 and col. col. 17 lines 12-30), and wherein the cut down mode selecting means changes the cut down modes according to the type of the synthesized image to be produced by the image processing section (note fig. 33a and 33b shows synthesized image at different rates).

Regarding claim 3 Kirsten discloses,

Wherein the cut down mode selecting means comprises a resolution specifier for specifying resolutions that should be necessary fro respective areas of each said

camera image for use in the image synthesis to produce the synthesized image (note col. 17 lines 3-11, control system specify resolutions), and

Wherein the image data cut down means compresses the original image data representing the camera images for use in image synthesis, according to the resolutions specified by the resolution specifier (examiner interprets compensating of compressed data from resolution. Control system examiner interprets as compressing data based on resolution).

Regarding claim 4 Kirsten discloses,

Wherein the image data cut down means compresses the original image data by discrete cosine transform (note col. 12 line 66- col. 13 line 5).

Regarding claim 5 Kirsten discloses,

Wherein the cut down mode selecting means comprises an area specifier for specifying area that should be necessary to produce the synthesized image for each of said camera image for use in the image synthesis (compression rate controller specify area for synthesized image, col. 18 lines 30-45), and

Wherein the image data cut down means removes an unnecessary part from the original image data that represents each of said camera image for use in the image synthesis, the unnecessary part corresponding to the remaining area of the camera image other than the areas specified by the area specifier (note col. 18 lines 25-30 compressor remove errors parts).

Regarding claim 6 Kirsten discloses,

Wherein the original image data is read out from each said camera in a controllable order (camera are read out of video selector 70, provides controllable order), and

Wherein the camera section or the image processing section comprises a readout controller for controlling the order (which read one acquisition controller, comprise in camera section, note col. 9 lines 18-25), in which the original image data representing each said camera image for use in the image synthesis is read out (image read out video selector), in compliance with the cut down mode selected by the cut down mode selecting means (acquisition controller works with image compressor).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsten in view of Just (6,389,339).

Regarding claim 7 Kirsten discloses,

A camera to capture images of surrounding areas. However, Kirsten does not disclose camera mounted on a vehicle. Just discloses a mounted camera on a vehicle (note col. 2 lines 16-17) viewing vehicle from home. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to mount a camera on a vehicle in the system of Kirsten. Increased monitoring options would have been desirable feature in surveillance art due to its recording functions and Just recognize increasing monitoring options would be expected when mounting the camera on a vehicle is included in Kirsten.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory M. Desire whose telephone number is (703) 308-9586. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) Second Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory M. Desire
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



G.D.
August 6, 2004